

ADDRESSES

Delivered by

WAYNE C. TOWNLEY

District Governor Illinois Lions Clubs

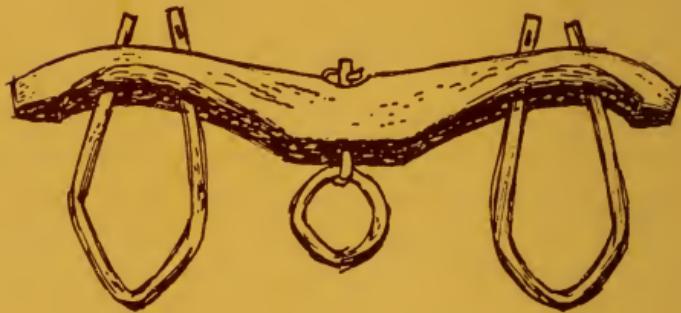
1923-1924

1924-1925



Of the hundreds of brilliant addresses given by him during his term of office, the Russell-Hampton Company presents these three classics to all Lions in his District, with their congratulations for the many successes achieved under his leadership.

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Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln

(The following was given at the service of dedication of the monument erected above the graves of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln—the father and step-mother of Abraham Lincoln.

The monument was erected through Mr. Townley's efforts after the State Legislature and volunteer organizations had failed to provide a suitable marker.)

WE are here to dedicate this monument erected in memory of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, the father and step-mother of Abraham Lincoln.

Illinois may well recall its contribution to that great life.

Here, in this State, were developed those talents which produced that great debater—the superior of a Stephen A. Douglas:

Here was developed that orator whose speeches are classed with the gems of the ages:

Here was inspired that patriot—ready to hold the horse of a vain McClellan, willing to bear the ridicule of a mistaken Greeley, satisfied to ignore the false clamor of a misguided minority; that this nation, of the people, by the people, for the people, might live:

Here he gave his “lost speech”—which pointed to his leadership in the Republican Party and paved his way to the Presidency:

Here was developed from the rough, unlettered, unknown backwoodsman—the world’s greatest citizen:

Here was the training that gave to us the patient, wise, just, martyred leader who loved his country more than himself; his honor more than his station; his ideals more than his office:

And through it all was the influence of the father and step-mother—intangible but powerful: With his struggles came the knowledge of the value of a good heredity through the one and the help of environment through the other. He honored both.

We have come to this little country churchyard to pay tribute by the dedicatoin of this granite, to these “whose humble but worthy home gave to the world Abraham Lincoln.” With this privilege comes the opportunity of saying these few words of long delayed appreciation.

These two belonged to Abraham Lincoln. “He belongs to the ages.”

JANESVILLE, ILLINOIS,
May 16, 1924

Welcome to the Grand Army of the Republic

(This was delivered at a banquet in the gold room of the Congress Hotel at Chicago. Vice-President Dawes declared, when he spoke, that it was "probably the most notable banquet ever held in Chicago.")

WE are here tonight in honor of Abraham Lincoln. The Nation may look with pride upon Illinois' part in the great conflict of which his was the dominant life. Southern Illinois with its vigorous John A. Logan; Northern Illinois with its silent U. S. Grant; Central Illinois with its patient Abraham Lincoln; the Democrat, the man of no party, the Republican, united to save the Union.

Lincoln was born in a slave country. He made it a free one. He lived in a weak nation. He made it a strong one. He found disunion. He made a sovereignty.

As long as history is known will the story of the boy who rose from the cradle so obscure to the eminence so magnificent, encourage mankind. As long as oratory is an art, will the Gettysburg address be remembered. As long as patriotism is a virtue, will his conduct with Stanton be admired. As long as truth, rather than expediency is an ideal, will the debates with Douglas be read. He will be quoted as long as the ages endure.

He used to say his life was,
"The short and simple annals of the poor."

Rather it was democracy at its best.

You Grand Army men knew him and his work. Our recollection of your individual deeds may have been somewhat dimmed by the years but our gratitude has increased. Your sacrifices have made debtors of us all. Without your response there would have been no emancipation proclamation, no victory, no union. Without you there would have been no Spanish-American veterans, no Legionnaires; without you we would have no 48 stars.

The Lions welcome you—the old guard.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS,
February 12, 1925.

Introduction of Lt. Gen. Nelson A. Miles

(At the time this was given in Chicago, General Miles had not been a visitor in the city for several years and the people of Illinois were awakened again to the exploits and valor of their venerable leader, then 86 years of age.)

IT is common comment that we have had "hard times" since 1920. We have just passed a "bad winter." Men long for the "good old days."

We have as a distinguished guest of honor tonight, one who may recall "the good old days." We Lions have not forgotten "the hard times" of 1861 when a Massachusetts youth spent all his money raising a company to fight for the North; nor his engagement at Antietam when more men were killed than on any other day of the War; nor that same volunteer who was wounded four times during those four long years; nor the Colonel at 23 who commanded 26,000 men in the field at 25. Caesar had his Tenth Legion but the Union had its Second Corps.

We remember his campaigns against Two Moons, Crazy Horse, Pretty Bear, Big Crow; we recall how he slept on the snow without fires in the campaign against Sitting Bull; how he escaped death dealing with Lame Deer; how he rose from the ranks by the sheer force of his own ability.

Wise in Counsel, prudent in planning, a thunderbolt in execution, this hero of Chancellorsville; this Indian fighter; this commanding general of the Spanish-American War; this American; comes to

us tonight in the evening of his life to pay tribute to Lincoln. Rich in years of experience and in honor he comes like some great legendary figure to inspire us of a younger generation to renewed patriotism and service.

Trusted by Lincoln, companion of Custer, hero to us all—General Nelson A. Miles, we welcome you.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS,
February 19, 1925.

Compliments of
LION JOHN M. KUMLER
President Russell-Hampton Company
CHICAGO, ILL.
